last update: February 21, 2023

Note: As I swap out improved files, it can temporarily break the playlist function. If the playlist stops working, I'm probably working with the files. Just refresh the page and things should adjust properly.

Currently available: Vol. 1, Vol. 2 Vol. 3

This 78 rpm collection will ultimately include ten (10) volumes of music, each comprising 1,000 tracks. As of the time of this writing, I have 8,400 tracks in my possession and I will eventually add more tracks to top things off at a nice 10,000 files. I attained the files from this page. Why re-post them? Multiple reasons. The main thing people were complaining about on that page was the mismatch between the displayed track title in the embedded media player with the actual track being played. There were other issues but if you care to know more, then visit the page and see for yourself. Breaking things down into smaller chunks makes this mammoth collection more playable and manageable.

A lot of the files have different issues like poor, missing or inaccurate metadata, weird filename characters causing issues with IA software, weak audio, incomplete or fragmentary tracks, corrupt files, etc. I've only just begun cleaning things up, improving audio in some cases, adding or correcting metadata among other things, but it will take a long time to process thousands of files. If you are a fan of this type of music and would like to help, then there are ways to do that which I'll discuss later in this document.

I haven't listened to everything yet because this collection is a new acquisition but, from what I've heard thus far, it's mainly music from the 1920s and 1930s with some pre-1920s tracks and some from the 1940s. Basically, if you like music from the 1920s and 1930s, then this collection should please you and keep you occupied for a very long time.

If you would like to help make this collection even better, there are three main ways to do so:

- **Tagging:** If you are very knowledgeable about this era of music and know the artists and songs just by hearing them, then you can cross-check the metadata about the song and, if necessary, improve and expand it by using tagging software. The main things to be concerned about are correct *artist/band* name, *track title*, *genre*, and *year*. If you can identify the *recording label* and *catalog identifier* that would be great too. There are different fields you can input that kind of information but the safest bet is to just add it to the comment field. If you want to aim for sainthood, then you could actually locate an image file of the label and embed it into the ID3 tag. That would be going above and beyond the call of duty and I'm not really expecting anyone to do that, but I would never

discourage it either! I'm also allotting one document per track, so if you want to dig deeper into the backstory of a particular track and share your findings, that would be great. Tagging software is useful but its nature encourages very limited bits of information and people tend to shorten and abbreviate things to squeeze in as much information into as small a space as possible. Some of the metadata of these files suggests a single person or a small group making inside notes to themselves. Having a document for each track encourages more information and more clarity. Some things you might want to find out about a track are all of the people involved in its production; where it was recorded and when; what was happening at that time in the artist(s) career and in the wider society and culture. Basically, find out anything and everything you can and document your findings. If you're really enjoying yourself, you can collect other data like pictures or related songs and music, biographical data, trivia, etc. Even if you have only a passing interest in this collection, you could choose at least one track out of the entire collection and do some research on it, documenting what you find and that would be a big help. Over time, the database will grow and each track will have its own story. I think any worthwhile information accessed by thousands of people over time should have databases like this anyway.

- **Audio Quality:** If you should come across a track of low audio quality, then you could let me know which volume and track number it belongs to and I will add it to a list which I will eventually go through to try to improve the audio. Keep in mind that these are very old recordings using primitive recording equipment and standards compared with today's technology. Also, the quality of how they were digitized highly varies from file to file so one shouldn't set their expectations too high. Nevertheless, if a track's poor quality or exceeding low volume really degrades the listening experience, then let me know and I'll add it to a list for eventual improvement or, if necessary, replacement with a better version, or a higher quality track of a different selection from the same artist. If you have knowledge and skill with audio software, feel free to improve any files yourself and then send me the improved version and I'll replace the original file. Keep in mind that some audio software doesn't import ID3 tags very well or completely, so take note of the track's metadata *before* editing the file or, better yet, work with a copy of the original file as a precaution. If you really want to get more deeply involved, then you could comb through a particular volume in a more methodical way and keep me informed of your activities so I can keep track of things and avoid duplication of efforts.

- **Duplicates:** Speaking of duplication of efforts, there are going to inevitably be duplicate files within such a massive collection. I've already found and dealt with

a few. If you come across any duplicates within or between volumes as you listen to this collection, simply note the volume number and track information and let me know about it so I can prune out them out and replace them with a different track. It's OK for the same song to be present within the entire collection if it's performed by different artists, though.

I am not really expecting anyone to help me with this project but it would certainly be nice to have some help. Otherwise, I'm willing to chip away at things slowly over time, but with 10,000 files to process that will take years to complete.

In summary, if you want to help then leave a message on this page so we can coordinate a plan of action together.

Thank you for your interest and enjoy the collection!

10,000 files not enough for you? Check out these collections too.